



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
**TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**  
CITIZENS PLAZA STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
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COMMISSIONER

## **2007 Annual State Report**

The Tennessee Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has the duty to:

- (1) Advocate services affecting the deaf and hard of hearing in the areas of public services, health care, and educational, vocational, and employment opportunity;
- (2) Act as a bureau of information for the deaf and hard of hearing to state agencies and public institutions providing health care, employment, vocational, and educational services to the deaf and hard of hearing, and to local agencies and programs;
- (3) Collect facts and statistics and other special studies of conditions affecting the health and welfare of the deaf and hard of hearing in this state;
- (4) Provide for a mutual exchange of ideas and information on the national, state, and local levels;
- (5) Encourage and assist local governments in the development of programs for the deaf and hard of hearing;
- (6) Cooperate with public and private agencies and units of local, state, and federal governments in promoting coordination in programs for the deaf and hard of hearing;
- (7) Authorize the executive director to prepare an annual report to the council which reviews the status of state services for the deaf and hard of hearing. The council will submit the approved report to the general assembly and make this report available to organizations serving the deaf and hard of hearing; and
- (8) Make recommendations for needed improvements and to serve as an advisory body in regard to new legislation affecting the deaf and hard of hearing.

TCDHH was founded in 1978 by the Tennessee Legislature and is found in the Tennessee Code Annotated Part 21, 74-4-2102. The Council is housed within the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Division of Rehabilitation Services. It provides 6 regional Community Centers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with State and Federal Grant money to provide: interpreting, information, referral, peer counseling, and helping clients access community services.

**The major activities that TCDHH was active in during last fiscal year were:**

- Meeting with key groups regarding requirements for educational interpreters
- Promoting new-born hearing screening legislation
- Promoting hearing aid insurance legislation
- Promoting mental health services for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind
- Promoting suicide prevention for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind
- Promoting awareness of this population's special needs to sub-committees of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
- Providing information regarding financial assistance for hearing aids
- Providing information regarding telecommunication equipment
- Providing information regarding interpreting services in Tennessee
- Providing information regarding legal rights of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind
- Supporting Deaf Awareness Activities across Tennessee

**Services from the six Community Centers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Numbers of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Served	15,738
Telephone Calls Interpreted	3,594
Number of Interpreting Assignments for Vocational Rehabilitation	5,552
Number of Hours Interpreted for Vocational Rehabilitation	9,820
Units of Technical Assistance Provided to Employers	968
Units of Independent Living Skills Taught	3,700
Sign Language or Speech Reading Class Hours Taught	338
Number of Students in these classes	632
Workshop/Seminar Hours on Deafness	225
Number of Participants in these workshops/seminars	783